ON THE REVIEWER'S TABLE

"Life of James Cardinal Gibbons."

By Allen S. Will, A. M., Litt. D. John Murphy Company, of Baltimore, Md., publishers. $2.00 net.

The author of an extended biography of Cardinal Gibbons writes in his foreword: "It seems not inappropriate on the occasion of the Cardinal's fiftieth anniversary as priest and his twenty-fifth anniversary as Cardinal to pause and survey, when he is seventy-seven years old, the broad outlines of his career. No comprehensive attempt has been made up to this time to tell the story of the Cardinal's life, crowded, as it has been, with events not only of deep significance to the world, but of absorbing interest. These considerations, and the peculiar appropriateness of the double jubilee, have emboldened me to embarg on the rather hazardous task of trying to write a biography while the subject of it is yet living. In the preparation of the book I have been specially solicitous to obtain accuracy. Unverified statements have been rejected and I have wholly discarded unconfirmed tradition and reminiscence." The biography, beginning with the Cardinal's birth in Baltimore, Md., on July 23, 1834, describes his early family life and schooling, the death of his father and the return of Mrs. Gibbons and her children from Westport, Ireland, where the last days of the husband and father were spent, to New Orleans, La. The future Cardinal, as his biographer points out, gave up the promise of a business career in New Orleans for the priesthood and, in the summer of 1855, left that city for Baltimore and began his collegiate training at St. Charles College, Ellicott City, Md. The second stage of his course was finished at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, and he was ordained priest by Archbishop Kenrick, June 30, 1761.

The chapters of the biography go on to describe the pastorate of St. Bridget's during the War Between the States, the dangers and difficulties encountered by the young priest in his ministrations at Fort McHenry and the prophetic sermon preached by him on the night of Lincoln's assassination. They tell of his appointment as Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina when the war ended and of the rapid growth of the Catholic Church in the vicariate under his charge.

The death of Archbishop McGill in Richmond in January of 1872, says Mr. Will, opened a new field for the versatile activity of Bishop Gibbons, who was installed as the head of the Richmond diocese, October 13, 1872, by Archbishop Bayley, of the Baltimore Cathedral. He remained in Richmond until October 14, 1877, when "his fellow-citizens of Richmond, without distinction of religious belief, viewed his departure with regret."

His biography from this time on has to do with his work as Archbishop of Baltimore, his being made Cardinal on June 30, 1886, the early years of his cardinalate, his organization in Baltimore of a celebration in honor of the centennial of the clerarchy, his advice against direct relations between the Vatican and the government at Washington, his appeal to Congress for a continuance of government appropriations to Catholic Indian schools, his attitude against foreign nationalism in the American church, his prayer at the dedication of the great fair in Chicago, his efforts to prevent the Spanish-American War, his influence in bringing about the suppression of the Louisiana lottery, and in promoting the election of Pope Pius X., his sympathy with French Catholics; with his extensive travels, his opposition to divorce and other social evils, his writings, his health and habits, the celebration of his golden jubilee as priest and silver jubilee as member of the Sacred College, on June 6, 1911.

The last chapter deals with a summary of his labors and pays a just and eloquent tribute to the conspicuous accomplishments of the Cardinal, which have attracted the attention of the world. But, says Mr. Will, in closing, "the Cardinal has been first of all the priest, laboring for the salvation of souls and never relaxing his self-discipline in the school of piety. With him religion has been a real thing—the greatest reality of life—and he has ever clung close to the rigorous sulpician code he learned at the seminary, although engaged in manifold labors that have left an indelible stamp upon the fabric of contemporary history."

The book is all the more valuable, because during this year Cardinal Gibbon's name has been much in the thoughts and upon the lips of fellow-Americans, upon whom and his native land he has reflected so much honor. The biography, which treats of his labors and their influence for good, is a just tribute to a truly good and great man and church dignitary, known and beloved in the United States and other countries where his fame has gone abroad.

The biography is splendidly written. Its author, who is the city editor of the Baltimore Sun, has devoted to his work long and painstaking research. As his work is the first published life of the great Cardinal, it will come before the public as an answer to a need which has long existed.

"The Secret Garden."

By Frances Hodgson Burnett. Frederick A. Stokes Company, of New York.

Readers of all the many charming books that Frances Hodgson Burnett has written to delight the world and make it better will find "The Secret Garden" full of sweet and unexpected pleasures, the joyous laughter of childhood, the scents and sounds of fragrant growing things, the perfume and the bloom of roses—the magic that heals and comforts and makes the weak and sick strong all through and through.

The garden was called secret because the door to it had been locked and the key buried. A long time before the book-story about it was written a girl-wife and mother bent above its borders and tended its flowers. But because her life ended tragically there, it was banned and the flowers were untended and forsaken.

But after years had passed a little girl named Mary Lennox, whose parents had died in India from cholera, came to Misselthwaite Manor in Yorkshire, England, the place where the secret garden was. Mr. Craven, the owner of the manor, was Mary's uncle. She was herself a thin sallow child, with thin light hair and a sour expression. She had never had any affection wasted on by her gay, thoughtless young mother, so she was anything but an agreeable child. But, after all, she was the finder of the secret garden. She picked up the key, pushed aside an overhanging curtain of ivy, and went inside of the ancient walls.

Before she came to Misselthwaite Manor she had had none of the amusements of healthy childhood. But after she had been working and walking in the secret garden for awhile, her little peaked face began to grow round and rosy and she became more like other children. She found a playmate in a boy named Dickon, a brother of the housemaid who waited on her. Dickson was the son of a kind, motherly woman named Susan Sowerby. He was versed in all the nature lore of the Yorkshire moors. He had made friends with many of the wild things and taught Mary a great deal about the ways of birds and squirrels and lambs, and how to plant and tend flowers.

When Mary had begun to feel the good effects of her changed surroundings, and was thriving adn evpanding in a natural, healthy way, she made the acquaintance of her cousin, Colin Craven, her Uncle Archibald's son, who was an invalid, over-nursed, over-doctored and over-indulged, brought to the point of believing that he could not walk, or run, or indulge in any of the games that boys love, having a highly developed set of nerves and a weak spine undeveloped through regular and constant exercise.

As to what the garden did for these two unhappy children, Mary and Colin, readers of the book will find out. Perhaps it did more for Colin's father than for any one else. But it might not have done so much had it not been for Dickon and Susan Sowerby and the help and encouragement they gave in rendering the weak strong, by the simple remedies which are in the reach of all willing to be guided by their sweet and tender influences.

"The Secret Garden" will have a place in the affections of the world along with "Little Lord Fauntleroy" and "Sara Crewe."

"Ethan Frome."

By Edith Wharton. From Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York, through the Bell Book and Stationery Company, of Richmond. $1.00 net.

Starkfield, a snow-covered New England village, seems the kind of background that corresponds with the grim tragedy which Mrs. Wharton has depicted as going on, endlessly within a village household.

Ethan Frome, his wife, Zena, and her cousin, Mattie Silver, are the actors in the tragedy which seems all the more appalling, because it is so helpless and so useless. The man is described as a fine specimen of manhood. His wife, a chronic complainer and consumer of patent nostrums, much her husband's senior. The cousin, a pretty, graceful girl, amiable and calculated to fire the imagination of younges man than Ethan Frome.

Between these two is the unlovely figure of the wife, jealous, irritable and exacting, yet with the advantage of proprietary right on her side. She drove the man and the girl to desperation. They sought death together, but could not find it. And for punishment they three are afterwards condemned to life together—hard, pinching poverty adding to the misery of such an existence.

The book is, without doubt, powerfully written. But it is too hopeless and sombre in tone to be attractive. There is not a single ray of light to lift the gloom of the picture from beginning to end.

"Tom Brown's School Days."

By an Old Boy—Thomas Hughes. Illustrated by Louis Rhead. Harper and Brothers, of New York and London. $1.50.

W. D. Howells has written an introduction to this holiday edition of one of the best books for boys to read, in which he says: "From his earliest boyhood up Tom is the free and equal comrade of other decent boys of whatever station, and he ranges the woods, the fields, the streams with the joy in the sylvan life, which is the birthl right of all the boys within reach of them. The American school-boy of this generation will as freshly taste the pleasure of the school life at Rugby as the American school-boy of the two generations past, and he can hardly fail to rise from it with the noble intentions, the magnanimous ambitions which only good books can inspire."

"The Nine-Tenths."

By James Oppenheim. Harper and Brothers, of New York.

This story of Mr. Oppenheim is penetrated with the atmosphere of real New York, and is striking in its portrayal of common life and toil. But it is far from being merely pictorial in intent. The author enters into the lives of all the people he describes. The secret of his power is that without harrowing his readers' feelings he enables them to discover, under sordidness and confusion, a real pleasantness, and yet a sense that life is an enjoyable thing after all.

The optimism of "The Nine-Tenths" is the same spirit of mingled humor and responsibility that carries humanity through its own troubles. It is genuine and awakens response. The reader is given a real appreciation of the workers and a personal understanding of their emotions. Scene follows scene in a series of dramatic episodes, and through it all there is real growth of character which results in classing the book throughout as a realistic and moving story.

"The Song of Renny."

By Maurice Hewlett. From Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York, through the Bell Book and Stationery Company, of Richmond. $1.50.

For readers of an adventurous mediaeval love story, a novel of pure romance, "The Song of Renny" has much to commend it.

There is a great deal said about the lack of red blood in people and books, rendering them alike vapid and tiresomely conventional. Certainly such a criticism could not be passed on "The Song of Renny" which has red blood and to spare.

The book has three heroines and three heroes. If a man who thinks his self-appointed mission on earth is to slay and to burn and destroy, be a hero. The heroines are thre cousins. One is brought a prisoner to the castle of her hereditary enemy, a robber earl, who has slain all of her kinsfolk by treacherous assault, and spared her only that he may keep her a prisoner in his castle, marry her when she comes of age, and so get possession of her property, which is a royal fief. The only distinction which life confers upon her is that she has the song of Renny sung above her when she has at length been taken by violence out of a life in which she had known neither love nor happiness.

Of the other two women, the one marries the robber earl to begin with and the third sensibly weds a man she loves. The robber earl meets his fate after doing all the mischief he could accomplish. Then his widow turns to a poet-priest for consolation and finds it.

The stir and the hurly-burly of the book, the assault and defense of its castles, the warring of factions for their possession, the cruelty shown to the weak and the cringing to the rich create an atmosphere in which love songs lose their sweetness and knightliness its glory.

But the pictures, drawn by Mr. Hewlett, of the wedding feast at the castle of Pikpoyntz and of the bride lifted high in the arms of her bridegroom, while his followers cried aloud their fealty to her, is a brave picture and one that stirs imagination to recall. And the description of the cold gray land with the mists lying over its islands, of the rough highways and rude shelter for man and beast to be found outside of castle walls in mediaeval England forces itself into the mind as being realistic truth, so vivid is the power that reproduces it before the reader's fancy.

Maurice Hewlett is at his best in old England stories. The exuberance of his talent may betray him into some extravagances, but "The Song of Renny" is written out of a poet's heart and with a poet's pen. It names the novel and it is its strongest feature.

"Flower o' the Peach."

By Perceval Gibbon. The Century Company, of New York. $1.30 net.

A South African story with a sanatorium kept by an English physician and his wife serving as the centre of the incidents and tragedies which carry forward the story to its end.

The book is an unusual kind of romance. There is a Kaffir in it who has been educated in Europe and returns with the idea that he is going to better conditions among his race. He meets with the usual fate of the reformer in any case. He is distrusted by his people and brings trouble on all with whom he comes into contact.

The most interesting personages in the story are the doctor, who manages the sanatorium, his wife, who stands between him and the disgrace of exposure, and an English girl who comes to Africa with the hope of having her lungs healed. Britons, Boers and Kaffirs make a rather bizarre community, but there is no lack of vividness and dramatic power in the book situations.

"The Lotus Lantern."

By Mary Imlay Taylor and Martin Sabine. Little, Brown and Company, of Boston. $1.25 net.

A story with Japan of the present day as a background, a Geisha girl and a military attache of the British embassy in the foreground. The Geisha girl is really well born, being the daughter of the British ambassador, Colonel Overton, and a Japanese wife whom he has forsaken. The death of this forsaken wife has taken place some time before the opening of the story, and the Geisha, whose name is Ume-San, has been sold by her relatives to the owners of a Tokyo tea garden.

John Holland, the English military attache, meets the Japanese girl at the Japanese festival in memory of the dead and immediately falls violently in love with her—so much so, indeed, that he breaks his engagement with Maud Overton, the ambassador's English and acknowledged daughter, in rather an unceremonious manner. Fortunately for Maud, she finds another and a more constant lover to take John Holland's place. For the possession of the Geisha girl he has to fight an unscrupulous and cruel Japanese prince, but he comes out victorious, and it is to be presumed that he and Ume-San marry, to be blissfully happy ever afterwards.

The book is somewhat melodramatic in form.

"Mothers to Men."

By Zona Gale. Macmillan and Company, of New York.

Probably no woman who is a writer of modern American fiction has excelled Zona Gale in depicting the interest, the friendships and the neighborliness of village life. Her "Friendship Village" is known throughout the length and breadth of the United States, and hundreds of readers will rejoice in another book added to "Friendship Village" series.

In "Mothers to Men" when the women of the village decide to use the money they raised to improve the cemetery, for the education and rearing of a little foundling, the plot is initiated. In previous books Miss Gale has portrayed the tender love of old age and the vigorous love of youth, but perhaps in none of them has she had a subject of so universal an appeal as the mother love of this.

The book all through brims over with this love, the highest, most unselfish, the most patient and the tenderest with which humanity is blessed.

"Treasure Island."

By Robert Louis Stevenson. N. C. Wyeth, illustrator. From Charles Scribner's Sons, through the Bell Book and Stationery Company, of Richmond, $2.50.

Mr. Wyeth's bold, vigorous colorful pictures supplement perfectly the classic text that has made "Treasure Island" pre-eminent among stories of its type to form a holiday book that will enthrall readers of all ages—all who retain a love for romance or still feel the fascination and mystery of the sea.

There was need for an artist of deep imagination and virile style to catch and reproduce the spirit of Stevenson's swinging narrative. Billy Bones, one-legged John Silver, Dick Pew, the blind man—all live again to plot and fight for the hidden treasure, and the artist has been singularly successful in expressing the individuality of these and the other famous characters.

Stevenson's text, of course, is far too well known for any comment other than here it is rendered in a large clear type on handsome paper.

"Son."

By Ethel Train. Charles Scribner's Sons, of New York, through the Bell Book and Stationery Company, of Richmond. $1.20 net.

A charming and delightfully told story of the adventures of a small boy. "Son" is a very real and lovable small boy and the people he comes in contact with are as human and interesting as he is himself. The book is one of the best of its kind, as all who read it will find out for themselves.

"Spanish Sketches."

By Edward Penfield. Thirty-two color illustrations, by the author. Charles Scribner's Sons, through the Bell Book and Staalonery Company, of Richmond. $2.50 net.

With his pen and his brush Mr. Penfield, so thoroughly successful in his "Holland Sketches," has here caught and reproduced the very life and spirit of Spain. No one ever before as vividly expressed the charm of that romantic land, so full of grace, beauty, and color. You journey with him pleasantly through city and country, he pointing out much that is picturesque, lovely, or amusing the average traveler would have overlooked. You see beautiful signoras, you view brilliant bull-fights, you see the peasants with their donkeys, the little swarthy soldiers—all that is characteristic.

"The Cat's Tea Party."

By Laure Claire Foucher. Illustrated, in color, by M. E. Grainger. Moffat, Yard and Company, of New York. 50 cents net.

The educational object of this fascinating book is to interest little children in poetry by making each of the poems carry an absorbing story. Besides the title poem there are two others, "Over in the Meadow" and "The Mouse and the Cake."

Holiday Publications

Among the holiday publications which Harper has already brought out with dainty covers and charming illustrations, Booth Tarkington's "Beasley's Christmas Party"—price $1.00 net—and "The Mansion," by Henry van Dyke—at 50 cents net—must be taken into account. Both books are classics and, in their present form, make a lovely addition to the holiday output, the binding, decorative work and illustrations serving alike to render them genuine works of art.

Gorgeous Calendars.

From the George H. Doran Company, of New York, have been received "The Phillips Calendar," "Life's Calendar" and "The Gibson Calendar" for 1912. All three of these publications are genuine works of art, embodying the execution of designs calculated to delight the eye and convey an ineffaceable impression of the man behind the brush and pen that wrought such lovely results in figure work, such atmospheres to bring out the force of the figure work. The frontispiece of the Phillips Calendar is called "The Present Day Saint." She is going her Christmas round, this dainty bit of saintship, and the allurement she exercises will certainly incline calendar lovers to turn the leaves she incloses and find other charming incarnations of saintship within. The Gibson calendar is pre-eminently characteristic from beginning to ending, all of its illustrative pages being full of interest. The hunt for the four-leaf clover is perhaps the picture that will be looked at longest and liked best. The artists for "Life's Calendar" are James Montgomery Flagg, William L. Jacobs, Bayard Jones and W. B. King. Each illustration is a gem of its kind, the "Now Be Good" of James Montgomery Flood, "The Rivals," by Jacobs, and "The Closing Chapter of a Long Love Story," by King, coming back especially into mind.

The calendars' leaves are loosely held together with a knotted silk cord. After they have served their purpose for the year they could be framed and form a most artistic series in a group individulizing the work of latter-day American illustrators.

Gift Books.

From the Plat and Peck Company, of New York, have been received "How John Norton Kept His Christmas," by W. H. H. Murray. Price $1.00 net.

This is one of the most pleasing Christmas stories ever written. It has been said it bears the same relation to American literature that Dickns's "Christmas Carol" bears to English literature. The human, vital interest is sustained throughout, and the reader passes through the height and depth of humor and pathos. It is a book that cannot be read without a smile and a tear, but one that leaves a renewed belief in the goodness of humanity.

Other books from the same publishers include "For Auld Lang Syne, a Book of Friendship," selected by Ray Woodward, price 75 cents, and "What Comes From the Heart," by Ethel Turner Mannering, 75 cents. Both of these little books contain beautiful selections. They are printed throughout in two colors and have artistic cover designs and frontispieces in color.

The November Scribner.

Two special features of interest in the November issue of Scribner's Magazine are Thomas Uelson Page's article on "General Lee and the Confederate Government" and "General Funsten's Account of the Capture of Emilio Aguinaldo." In his article Mr. Page expresses the opinion that, as a commander, General Lee was the victim of the incompetence of the civil authorities. At the very last Mr. Page writes that Lee "had successfully accomplished one of the most difficult movements of his career. He had withdrawn his army by night from Grant's front, extending against his lines for thirty-odd miles, in places so close that the movement could not be begun until the moon set. He had crossed the Appomattox twice and, marching past Grant's left, was well on his way to Danville, when the disastrous consequences of civil incompetence overtook him. In the first place, a letter in which Lee had stated the condition of his army and his plans to the civil authorities had been left in Richmond and fell into the hands of the Union commander, apprising him fully of Lee's route and the desperate condition of his army. And, secondly, when Lee reached Amelia Courthouse, where he had ordered that rations should meet his army, it was found that, though they had been sent as directed, the train carrying them had been ordered away again a few hours before his arrival." Mr. Page quotes from Lee's final report of the surrender of Appomattox in regard to this misfortune, as follows: "Not finding the supplies ordered to be placed there, nearly twenty-four hours were lost in endeavoring to collect subsistence for men and horses. The delay was fatal and could not be retrieved.'" In this day of probing for the truth, Mr. Page's article will doubtless be widely read. The frontispiece of the magazine is a color picture of a meet of the Castle Hill hounds, with Mrs. Allen Potts, M. F. H., in the foreground. The picture is the work of Henry Rankin Poore, and serves as an illustration to accompany his story of "Fox and Drag Hunting in the United States," which is in the lead for the month.

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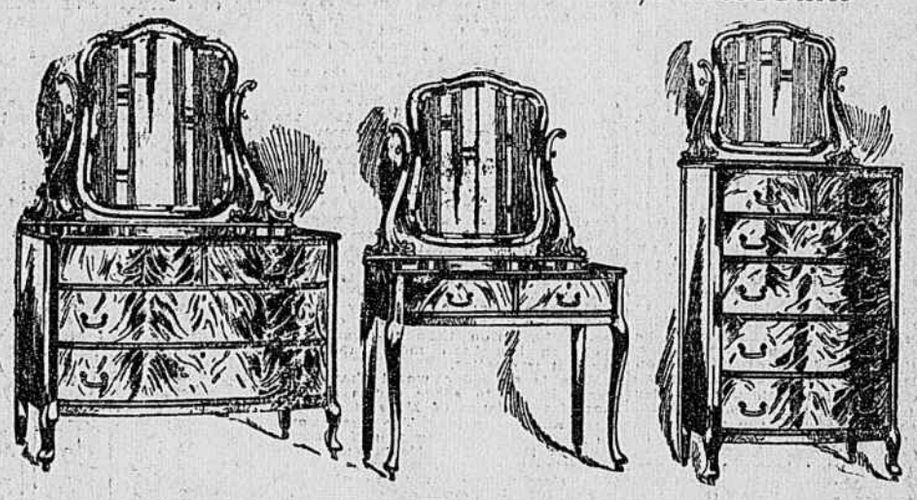

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